Message Text

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O R 091729Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2980 INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: SGDS-1 AND 3 TAGS: FR, CD, LY, AG, MO

SUBJECT: ELYSEE CONVERSATION WITH JALLOUD

- 1. ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SOURCE (PROTECT THROUGHOUT) TOLD EMBOFF IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT ELYSEE HAS REACHED A "HIGHLY FRAGILE BUT NEVERTHELESS WRITTEN AGREEMENT" ON CHAD WITH JALLOUD DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO PARIS THIS WEEK. EXISTENCE OF THIS UNDERSTANDING STILL SO SENSITIVE IT IS NOT YET KNOWN TO QUAI OR FRENCH EMBASSY IN NDJAMENA.
- 2. SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT JALLOUD CAME TO PARIS AT LIBYAN INITIATIVE AFTER RECENT DEFEAT FROLINAT FORCES NEAR ATI IN CHAD. WHILE ELYSEE NOT ABLE TO ASSERT A CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP, FACT WAS THAT JALLOUD, WHILE TOUGH AND SERIOUS IN MANNER, CLEARLY CAME TO SIGNAL LIBYAN DESIRE TO RESTORE CALM IN CHAD. GISCARD, WHO RECEIVED JALLOUD, READILY RECIPROCATED, SINCE HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE, AFTER KOLWEZI AND ITS AFTERMATH, THAT FRANCE, WHILE FIRM WHEN SECRET

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NECESSARY, SEEKS REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO ALL AFRICAN PROBLEMS. IN THIS REGARD ELYSEE SOURCE SAID THAT GISCARD CONSIDERS CHAD A BETTER FIRST CANDIDATE FOR NEGOTIATION THAN MAURITANIA, BECAUSE ALGERIA'S COMMITMENT IS AHRDER AND SAHARAN PROBLEMS MORE COMPLICATED. EVEN SO, GISCARD HOPES THAT IF AND WHEN CALM CAN BE RESTORED IN CHAD THIS WILL IN TURN ALSO HAVE CALMING

EFFECT ON THE SAHARA IN GENERAL THROUGH THE LIBYAN/ ALGERIAN "CONNECTION." EVEN A PARTIAL SUCCESS OF THIS SORT, SOURCE ADDED, WILL OF COURSE ALSO HELP WEST TO DEFLATE THE INCREASINGLY VENOMOUS SOVIET ATTACKS ON RECENT WESTERN POLICY IN AFRICA.

3. JALLOUD'S MOTIVES IN SEEKING A RESTORATION OF THE CEASE FIRE, SOURCE ADMITTED, MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, AIMED MOST PROBABLY AT OBTAINING GREATER LIBYAN IN-FLUENCE IN CHAD BY POLITICAL MEANS THAN HAD PROVEN POSSIBLE MILITARILY. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THERE WAS SUF-FICIENT MEETING OF MINDS IN PARIS TO ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO DEVELOP A "PHASED PROGRAM" WHICH WAS PUT IN WRITING. IN GENERAL, THE UNDERSTANDING PROVIDES THAT BOTH THE LIBYANS AND THE FRENCH WOULD AGAIN PRACTICE AND COUNSEL MODERATION ON THEIR CLIENTS. IN LIBYAN CASE THIS SHOULD LEAD TO EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE FROLINAT TO THE ORIGINAL CEASE FIRE LINES. IF, REPEAT IF, THEY DO THIS FRANCE FOR ITS PART WOULD WITHDRAW ITS OWN FORCES FROM CHAD (IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER COM-PLETELY OR ONLY IN LARGE PART). MOREOVER, PLAN IN-CLUDES USING THE PROJECTED CONFERENCE ON CHAD. INCLUDING LIBYA, THE SUDAN, NIGER, AS WELL AS THE FROLINAT AND CHAD, TO SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS. THE ELYSEE EXPECTS THAT IN SUCH A SUBSEQUENT "POLITI-CAL PHASE", IT WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL ANY "EXCESSIVE" SECRET

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FROLINAT INFLUENCE IN NDJAMENA, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT IN ELYSEE MINDS THAT THE FROLINAT WILL HAVE TO HAVE A GREATER POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT THERE. JALLOUD IS NOW DISCUSSING THE PARIS PAPER IN LIBYA. MALLOUM, WE ARE TOLD, HAS NOT PRPEAT NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF ALL THIS, BUT PRESUMABLY WILL BE IN DUE COURSE. OBVIOUSLY, SOURCE CONCLUDED, MANY THINGS COULD INTERVENE IN THE CHAD PEACE PROCESS AS NOW FORE-SEEN WHICH COULD SINK IT -- INCLUDING PREMATURE LEAKS AND PUBLICITY OF THE FRENCH/LIBYAN TALKS. INDEED, THE FACT THAT JALLOUD'S PRESENCE IN PARIS BECAME KNOWN TO THE PRESS WAS INADVERTENT AND REGRETTED BY BOTH SIDES.

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